

# International conference on LCA: CILCA 2013—Mendoza, Argentina, March 24 to 27, 2013

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Between March 24 and 27, 2013, the V International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment in Latin America will be held in Mendoza, Argentina. Life Cycle Assessment in Latin America Conferences (CILCA) has been the most important and relevant LCA event for all the Latin American Region. This geographical region is one of the richest places of the world in natural resources (such as freshwater, glaciers, and minerals), terrestrial and aquatic biological diversity, and ancient forests. This scenario allows to actively use methodological tools and commercial mechanisms related to sustainable consumption and production affecting globally the modern society. Therefore, the advances toward the implementation of green economy in Latin America could significantly contribute to climate change mitigation and the sustainability of the life in our planet. It is with great pleasure that the National Technological University of Mendoza (UTN FRM), the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative and the International Scientific and Organizing Committee extend an open invitation for you to join and be an active participant (<http://www.cilca2013.org>).

## 1 The conference history

The conference provides an international forum to share experiences on Life Cycle Thinking and the related tools. CILCA is a bi-annual event which is held in different countries of

Latin America convoking experts and interested audiences from across the globe. The first CILCA was held in 2005 in San José Costa Rica, and from there has followed a successful journey which included locations spread all along the region: Sao Paulo (Brazil) in 2007, Pucón (Chile) in 2009, and the last one in Coatzacoalcos (Mexico) in 2011.

## 2 CILCA 2013

The meeting will focus on the development and application of tools for guiding governments, consumers and business towards a sustainable quality of life. Education is one of these tools, among other more instrumental ones like the footprint metrics. A great challenge that the community of life cycle assessment has is to install sustainability concepts and tools at all society levels in the region, which will help building innovative, successful development patterns which preserve its natural richness while improving the social and economic wealth of its inhabitants.

## 3 Program

The scientific program of CILCA 2013 will include plenary sessions with recognized keynote speakers from Industry, NGOs, Academia and UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative, and parallel specific sessions covering the following:

- Sustainable resource management
- LCM and eco-efficiency
- LCA and sustainable cities
- LCA and rural development
- Design for sustainability
- Waste management and recycling
- Social responsibility and life cycle sustainability assessment
- Industrial ecology

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- Green economy and sustainable policies
- Ecolabelling, Environmental Product Declarations Type III (PCR/EPD) and green purchasing
- Carbon and water footprints
- Life cycle costing
- LCA case studies
- Education and capability development
- LCI and LCA databases
- LCIA

Participants will be welcomed at the inaugural session to be held on March 24th. Short courses will be offered also, focusing on the different life cycle components (social, costing, and Environmental), footprint metrics (water and carbon), and related software tools. Other specific meetings such as those to work on the regional organization and the next CILCA are also planned

Official languages of the conference will be Spanish, Portuguese, and English, and provision has been made for oral presentations to be translated where applicable. All written documentation will be in English.

#### 4 Call for papers

The call for papers has been issued, and the deadline for abstract submission and poster presentation has been set for 15 August 2012. Abstracts must follow the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment format (<http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/11367>). When submitting an abstract, the authors should indicate whether they intend to make an oral or a poster presentation. For poster presentations, only the abstract is required. For oral presentation, after the acceptance of the abstract, a full paper should be submitted, following the instructions provided on the conference's site. The scientific committee will take the final decision regarding the acceptance as oral or poster presentation, based on the paper's quality, originality, and relevance. The three best papers will be selected for submission to the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment.

#### 5 Important dates

- Abstract submission: before 15 August 2012
- Notification of acceptance: 30 September 2012
- Full paper submission (only for oral presentations): 15 November 2012

- Notification of acceptance for oral presentations: 20 December 2012
- Conference dates: March 24–27, 2013

#### 6 Student technical poster contest

In conjunction with the conference, both undergraduate and graduate students and their advisors are encouraged to participate in the Poster Competition. Committees of distinguished members of the LCA community will evaluate entries, and the best undergraduate poster and the best graduate poster will be awarded. More information will be available on the conference's site.

#### 7 Conference sustainable responsibility

We know that a conference is a cause of environmental damage. To be coherent with the aims of the conference, we are fully committed to minimize the environmental impact of our activity and to support the principles of sustainable development, reducing emissions and discharges and promoting the rational use of resources and efficiency. We would like to share the sustainability goals of the event with participants and encourage them to contribute to help achieve these goals.

#### 8 The conference venue

CILCA 2013 venue is set in Mendoza, in a region of foothills and high plains. The city is a frequent stopover for climbers on their way to Aconcagua (the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere) and an all-seasons destination for adventure travelers, climbers, hikers, skiers, rafters, bikers, paragliders, trekkers and of course, wine lovers. Mendoza is one of nine cities worldwide in the network of Great Capitals of Wine, and is an emerging wine tourism destination and base for exploring the hundreds of wineries in the region.

We look forward to your participation at this important event and to be part of the synergy to embed a culture of life cycle thinking for a sustainable consumption.

For further information and to register, visit the Conference website <http://www.cilca2013.org>, or alternatively contact CLIOPE, Tel/Fax: +54-261-5244545, [cilca2013@gmail.com](mailto:cilca2013@gmail.com)

We hope to see you at CILCA 2013 to share life cycle thinking.